

THE VINES GO APE!

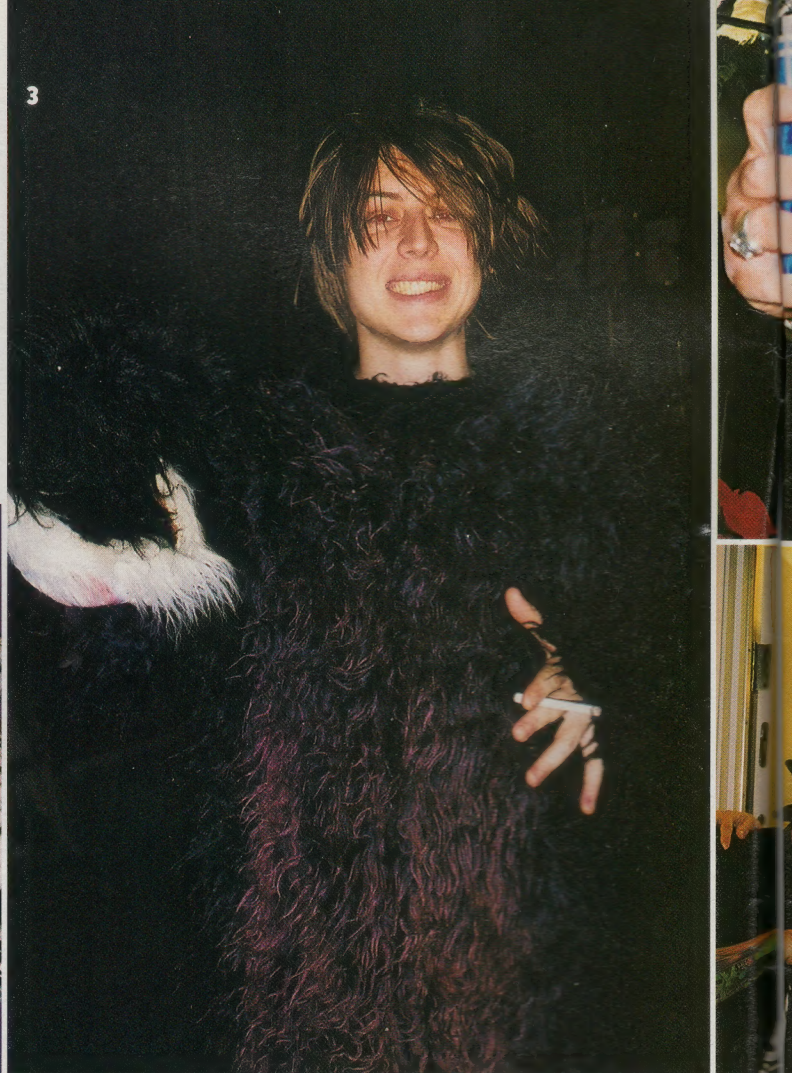
Aussie rockers lead monkey business at LA mega-gig

THE VINES frontman Craig Nicholls donned a monkey suit on December 8 to bring a touch of surreal mayhem to the annual KROQ Almost Acoustic Christmas Party in Los Angeles.

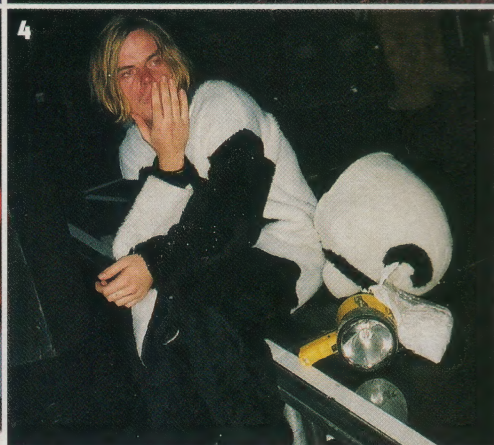
Accompanied by bandmates Patrick Matthews and Hamish Rosser (in zebra and panda suits respectively) plus a host of furry friends, the livewire singer invaded the stage during pop maverick Beck's set-closing rendition of 'White Christmas' to toss giant balloons and fake snow into the audience. As has been his habit during The Vines' gigs this year, even in disguise, Craig Nicholls made a point of destroying the drum kit at the end of the set.

The Australian garage-rockers will begin working on the follow-up to their debut album 'Highly Evolved' early next year. The band are hoping to recruit legendary producer Phil Spector to record the album.

As our exclusive backstage pictures show, The Vines weren't the only band having fun at the KROQ show. Turn to page 66 for our review of the KROQ show.



1. Just another day at the office for The Vines 2. "A 16" floor tom? Perfect..." 3. The Vines Craig Nicholls: one cheeky monkey 4 The Vines Hamish Rosser loses his head 5. F**k me, it's Billy Idol! 6. Pennywise bassist Fletcher pretends to like soft drinks 7. Benji Good Charlotte buddies up with Save Ferris gal Monica Powell and Rancid man Tim Armstrong 8. Alien Ant Farm's Dryden Mitchell and SOAD man Serj Tankian hook up for the annual 'LA's Stupidest Beard' party



A nice chat with...

Slash

Okay Slash, Axl Rose is back on the road and now you, Izzy, Duff and Matt Sorum are starting a band: will the real Guns N'Roses please stand up?

"Well, our band is obviously not Guns N'Roses. The timing is a bit comical, though."

You need a singer, though. We heard you've asked Courtney Love...

"That was just a joke. But I think Courtney's fantastic. She's a great singer with a great attitude. It could've worked."

What kind of singer do you want?

"It could be anyone. We're not asking anyone to sound like Axl, we're looking for someone



that doesn't sound like Axl."

Stop being stubborn. Just ring Axl...
"..."

Slash? Slash? Hello...
CLICK

BEEN CAUGHT DEALING!



A NEW card game aimed at rock fans hits shops this week.

The brainchild of 11-year-old Kerrang! reader Jake Law from Bordon, Hampshire (pictured above with The Offspring's Dexter Holland and Noodles), RokKardz are essentially a Pokémon/Top Trumps hybrid with one important difference: there are no strict rules. Cool.

RokKardz are available now at the London Piccadilly Virgin Megastore priced £5. For more info, log onto www.rokkardz.com.

